THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) to (c) The matter is still under consideration of the Government.

Payment of Interest by DLF

2362. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2295 on March 27, 1990 regarding collection by DLF Limited for sale of plots and state :

(a) whether the Monopolies and Restricted Trades Practices Commission has completed the inquiry against the DLF Universal Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the DLF has paid interest on the application money it held for a number of months to all unsuccessful applicants; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) : M/s DLF Universal Limited has contended that under the terms and conditions of the scheme, it was not required to pay interest to unsuccessful applicants. The applicants also agreed in writing to the refund of registration money without any interest in the event of their being declared unsuccessful at the draw of lots. Accordingly, it did not pay any interest to them.

Export of Farm Products

2363. SHRI V. SOBHANADRESWARA RAOVADDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the export of farm products by identifying areas most suited to production of exportable farm products and provide all infrastructural facilities for production ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) to (c) Government's policy is to promote export of farm products as such exports have low import intensity and these can help generate larger incomes and employment in the rural areas, while at the same time generating much needed foreign exchange for the country. The strategy for increasing the export of farm products includes a stable policy framework, conscious generation of surpluses for export, establishing backward linkages, providing incentives and assistance of various kinds to exporters, generating better packaging, improving quality control measures, simplyfying inspection and certification procedures, making credit available on more liberal basis, and improving other infrastructural support.

Some of the measures recently announced by the Government such as the enlarged REP Scheme, and the exchange rate adjustments are expected to give a boost to exports of our farm products.

[Translation]

Delegation to Kuwait to Procure Contracts for Construction Work

2364. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high level delegation from India went to Kuwait to procure contracts for construction and renovation work and in the field of engineering; and

(b) if so, the details of the contracts finalised by the delegation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Delegations from the Overseas Cnstruction Council of India (OCC,

and the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) led by high level officials visited Kuwait recently. A delegation from the Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) is also likely to visit Kuwait during this month.

(b) M/s. Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL), a Public Sector enterprise, have secured contracts of approximately of the order of $ 20 million, and about 250 technicians from TCIL are employed. Besides, some private transportation companies are reported to have secured orders for roughly $10 million.

Export of Agricultural Products to Gulf Countries

2365. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to send a delegation to gulf countries to discuss and finalise the export of agricultural products, processed food items and spices; and

(b) if so, the total foreign exchange likely to be earned from the export of these products?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) A seven member trade delegation of leading Indian exporters headed by Chairman, Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority has recently visited three Gulf countries for the promotion and export of agricultural products, processed foods and spices.

(b) As export is an on-going process, the total foreign exchange likely to be earned cannot be estimated.

Supply to Consumer Goods to Kuwait

2366. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation propose to resume the supply of consumer goods to Kuwait;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMRCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. STC has posted a Manager in Kuwait recently.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Border Clashes with Pakistan

2367. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number and nature of border clashes with Pakistan during the last one year;

(b) the number of persons killed/wounded on Indian side in these clashes;

(c) the compensation paid to family of the victimss and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (d) No border clashes took place on the Indo-Pak borders between the security forces of India and Pakistan during the last year. However, there have been incidents of exchange of fire between Indian and Pakistani forces across the Line of Control and in the Siachen Glacier region in J & K, during this period resulting in some casualties on both sides. It would not be desirable to disclose details.

2. The Directors General of Military Operations of India and Pakistan have been in weekly telephonic contact with each other.

3. Next of kin of Army personnel who are treated as battle casualties are authorised liberalised pensionary benefits as per details given below :

Liberalised Pensionary award :

(a) Liberalised Family pension at the rate of last pay drawn till death or disqualification.